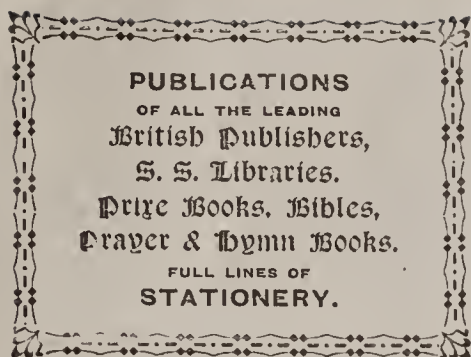


Smith, James

Oct. 10. 1873



THE BOMBAY TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

BOOKSELLERS, STATIONERS, BOOKBINDERS, &c.

ESTABLISHED 1827.

Telephone 1889.

P.O. Kalbadevi, Bombay.....*Oct 24* 1913

REV. J. SMITH, SECRETARY.

To,

President Falconer LL.D.

Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. Falconer,

It is now a year since I returned to India and thirty five since my first arrival from Toronto.

During the year, I have made a thorough investigation into the affairs of the Bombay Tract & Book Society and have discovered that the cause of the loss of business and decrease of income reported was due to dishonesty and incapacity of the staff, especially the former. They had been neglecting everything except what brought in gain to themselves; the losses have been very heavy, how great can never be known as there are no means of tracing Cash Sales, the proceeds of which, the staff appear to have appropriated very largely.

We have prosecuted and convicted two salesmen, and dismissed everyone else connected with the work when I arrived and have put on an entirely new staff of men of high character, but as yet with limited experience of such work as we have to do.

It is too soon to predict what we shall accomplish in the future, but our business doubled in the month of September and we expect a very large increase in the month of October; so we are encouraged to hope that better days have already come.

In the meantime we have no working capital, whatever. In fact we cannot meet our obligations from month to month, and we have borrowed to the utmost limit of our ability to pay interest from

probable income. We are therefore making an appeal for Rs 30,000 or 10,000 Dollars, to wipe off the debt incurred by necessary alterations in our building and by loss of business and embezzlement of our late staff. It is of no use to say we ought to have been more careful. Everything was done that could have been done to guard against dishonesty, and a man is known to be dishonest only after the act:--

Ever since 1827 when we began work, we have been hampered for want of funds. In looking over the list of Marathi books published by us and now on sale, I find only 13 of the value of 1 shilling and only 39 of the value of 5 pence between 5 pence and a shilling. We have published this year 3250 copies of a book of 210 pages being ~~Marathi~~ S.B. notes on the International Lessons, another book of 400 pages on the Hindu Religion, and 425,000 two page leaflets. I have a number of vernacular manuscripts awaiting money for publication and a number of most useful books needing republication.

There are four small books in the press, two at least will be issued before the close of this year.

In view of the very urgent need of pure vernacular literature for 20 millions of people who speak only Marathi and for whom only the above 50 books are available, in view of the fact that educated people in increasing numbers are reading English books, and that we need to publish cheap reprints of some of the best English books for these English speaking people, I have been instructed to appeal for help, to clear off our debt and thus set free all our resources for the work of publishing, and distributing literature. Before I left Toronto last year, I was encouraged to hope that possibly even probably the Upper Canada Tract Society might give us a grant of 500 or 1000 Dollars this year and thereafter.

The time has come when the production of Christian Literature for India is as urgent as Educational work. In fact the educational

work has produced the demand for literature, and the present means of production are quite unequal to the demand.

The Christian Church has made great sacrifices to provide Educational facilities, with most gratifying results. We must now provide pure literature or it would have been better to have left India in darkness. Immoral, and Seditious literature is being seized and confiscated by the police every week. Such literature may pay its way, but literature of a higher type must be assisted for some time to come.

Yours very faithfully

James Smith

Secretary.

P.S.

Contributions should ^{be} paid to the Upper Canada Tract Society and marked "for Bombay."

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November 17th, 1913

Rev. James Smith,

The Bombay Tract and Book Society,

Kalbadevi, Bombay.

My dear Sir:

I regret that affairs have so turned out in your Society in Bombay that you find yourselves in conditions of extreme difficulty, but I also regret that it is impossible for me to add to my list of givings, nowever well deserving they are, as I am sure yours will be.

Yours sincerely,

President.

